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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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*Winter Wood Burning Season upon Us*

## **Choose Clean Air 'Red Light Green Light' Program begins Saturday**

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – With the end of Indian summer just around the corner, the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is switching on its 'Red Light Green Light' program to alert people of winter air pollution conditions.

Starting Saturday, Nov. 1, DAQ's three-day forecasts will track the hard-to-see particles caused primarily by vehicle emissions, wood burning stoves and fireplaces that can shroud the valley in pollution-trapping inversions.

"Winter is a great time to be outside. But it's not pleasant when the valley is shrouded in pollution that obscure our world-class mountains," said Cheryl Heying director of DAQ. "That's why the Choose Clean Air program is crucial to inform residents when the air is unhealthy and help them make choices to prevent the pollution from getting worse."

The program, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> season, is simple. DAQ monitors air pollution hourly and provides a three-day forecast on its Web site: <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/>. Under "green" conditions, wood burning is allowed. When pollution builds, "yellow" signals for voluntary no wood burning and efforts to limit driving. When pollution levels approach unhealthy, a "red" mandatory no burning is issued and the elderly, children or anyone with respiratory problems are advised to stay indoors.

With the number of storms last winter there were only 13 red days in Salt Lake and Davis counties, compared with 30 in the previous season even though tougher federal standards were in effect both winters.

"Obviously some inversions are difficult to avoid. It generally takes a stiff wind or storm to clear the pollution. But if we all work together and reduce air pollution emissions we may have fewer red days this winter," said Bob Dalley, manager of the Air Monitoring Center.

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